

REMARKS

Claims 32-41 and 44-46 are presented for consideration, with Claims 32, 33, 44 and 45 being independent.

Independent Claims 32 and 33, along with selected dependent claims, have been amended to further distinguish Applicants' invention from the cited art. Claims 44-46 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Support for the claim amendments can be found on page 21, line 23, *et. seq.*, of the specification.

Attached is a disclosure citation form (PTO-1449) listing Japanese Document JPA 4-28137. This document was submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement of July 30, 2003, but incorrectly identified on the disclosure citation form attached thereto. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the revised disclosure citation form and return it with the next Office Action.

Claims 32-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Amano. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 32 relates to an image display apparatus comprised of a plurality of display devices wired in a matrix through a plurality of scanning signal wirings and a plurality of modulated signal wirings, and a driving circuit configured to apply a modulated signal having a modulated pulsewidth to each of a plurality of modulated signal wirings. As amended, Claim 32 sets forth that the driving circuit has a plurality of charge paths for changing a signal level of the modulated signal from a first level corresponding to a display state to a second level corresponding to a non-display state, and changes an operating state of each of the plurality of

charge paths in the process of changing the signal level of the modulated signal from the first level to the second level. As shown, for example, in Figure 23, transistors 23002 and 23003 provide a plurality of charge paths.

Amano relates to a video display system that includes a flat panel having an X and Y matrix. As read, the row lines X and column lines Y are driven to adjust the brightness of the video display by changing the combination of a width and an amplitude of a driving pulse.

In contrast to Applicants' invention, however, Amano does not teach or suggest, among other features, providing a driving circuit with a plurality of charge paths for changing a signal level as recited in Claim 32.

Claim 33 of Applicants' invention relates to an image display apparatus that includes a plurality of display devices and a driving circuit as recited in Claim 32. Claim 33 has been amended to recite that a signal level of the modulated signals corresponding to substantially all luminance which are designated by image signals is changed from a level corresponding to a display state to a level corresponding to a non-display state via an intermediate level, wherein the modulated signals corresponding to substantially all luminance do not include a modulated signal corresponding to the image signal for designating the non-display state. In this regard, the driving circuit (for example, 10007 in Figure 29 or 10007a in Figure 37) provides that the signal level of the modulated signals corresponding to substantially all luminance which are designated by image signals is changed from a first level corresponding to a display state to a second level corresponding to a non-display state via an intermediate level.

Contrary to Applicants' claimed invention, however, the 16 steps or grades of driving signals shown in Figure 9 of Amano demonstrate that not substantially all of the input video signals have an intermediate level (see, for example, levels 4, 8 and 12).

Accordingly, it is submitted that Amano fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as set forth in Claims 32 and 33, and therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Therefore, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 32 and 33 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, Claims 34-41 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

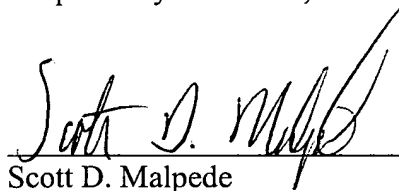
New Claims 44-46 are also submitted to be patentable over the cited art. As will be appreciated, the image display apparatus in Claim 44 includes a driving circuit with a plurality of charge paths, and is submitted to be patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 32. In Claim 45, the image display apparatus provides that a signal level of substantially all of the modulated signals which have the maximum level of the modulated signal is changed from the maximum level to a level corresponding to a non-display state via an intermediate level. For the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 33, this feature, among others, is not taught or suggested in Amano.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Appln. No.: 10/629,801

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott D. Malpede", is written over a horizontal line.

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